

SITUATION REPORT NO. 5
INCIDENT NO. 2002-040
DATE: June 12, 2002 TIME: 4:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Drought/Fires - Dry conditions in areas of high fuel content have increased the potential for fire and drought throughout North Dakota.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: To date, the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has received reports of two fatalities and two injuries.
3. DAMAGES: From March 1 until May 31, 20 grass fires were reported in Cass County.

Pierce County officials reported dry conditions have adversely affected agribusiness, resulting in feed and water shortages.

As of June 9, the USDA-ND-Crop Report indicated 13 percent of average topsoil moisture supplies in North Dakota rated very short, 18 percent was listed as short, 55 percent was adequate, and 14 percent was in the surplus category.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The American Red Cross responded to the grass fire south of Bismarck on June 6, providing water and food to approximately 40 firefighters and other responders.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency approved requests by six counties to open Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land for grazing. USDA County Emergency Boards (CEBs) in Adams, Bowman, Emmons, Grant, Hettinger and Logan submitted the requests because dry conditions have caused a lack of hay for livestock. The North Dakota Farm Service Agency received three additional requests from CEBs in Dickey, Kidder and McIntosh Counties.

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands issued Level 1 fire restrictions for the Cedar River National Grasslands located in Sioux County. These restrictions prohibit building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire except within a developed recreation site. Smoking is only allowed in an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed reaction site or an area measuring three feet in diameter that is barren and clear of all flammable materials.

The Pierce County Commission chairperson issued an emergency drought declaration on June 4.

The McIntosh County Commission chairperson issued an emergency drought declaration on June 7.

The North Dakota Interagency Dispatch Center sent 10 firefighting personnel to support fire suppression operations in New Mexico and Colorado. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) officials at Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and Spirit Lake Nation dispatched five engines and approximately 15 personnel to fight fires on tribal lands in New Mexico. Earlier this month, a 20-person hand crew from Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation supported firefighting operations in Minnesota.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No assistance is needed at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from the previous report.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state, local, tribal, federal and private entity emergency operations plans (EOPs) and procedures have been implemented.

The N.D. Rural Fire Mitigation Guide is posted on the N.D. Division of Emergency Management web site at: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem/>.

Information regarding fire weather forecasts can be found on the National Weather Service (NWS) web site at: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/bis/fire.htm>.

Situation Reports published by N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director